June 26, 2002

FACT SHEET

AMENDMENTS TO FINAL RULE TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR EMISSIONS FROM PORTLAND CEMENT MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

TODAY'S ACTION

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is amending its toxic air pollutant rule for portland cement manufacturing facilities. Today's amendments will correct a technical error and clarify issues arising from amendments EPA published on April 5, 2002.

- Toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer and other serious health or environmental effects.

- Today's amendments will not change the health and environmental benefits of the final rule since the amendments consist of a technical correction and provide clarification of our intent and will result in the use of the same control equipment.

BACKGROUND

- Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 air toxics listed in the Act. EPA included portland cement manufacturing in the list of industries that are major sources of air toxics. "Major" sources are those that emit 10 tons/year or more of a single listed air toxic or 25 tons/year or more of a combination of air toxics. For listed categories of major sources, the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution controls.

- EPA issued its final air toxics rule for portland cement manufacturing in June 1999. That rule requires the application of maximum achievable control technology for approximately 110 portland cement plants.

- Portland cement manufacturing is an energy intensive process in which cement is made by grinding and heating a mixture of raw materials such as limestone, clay, sand, and iron ore in a rotary kiln. The kiln is a large furnace that is fueled by coal, oil, gas, coke and/or various waste materials. The product (called clinker) from the kiln is cooled, ground, and then mixed with a small amount of gypsum to produce portland cement.

- The main source of air toxics emissions from a portland cement plant is the kiln. Emissions originate from the burning of fuels and heating of feed materials. Air toxics are also emitted from

the grinding, cooling, and materials handling steps in the manufacturing process.

- The final rule is expected to reduce air toxics emissions by 90 tons per year -- a 31 percent reduction from 1999 levels. It also reduces particulate matter and volatile organic compound emissions, which contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone.

WHAT THE AMENDMENTS WOULD DO

- In the amendments published in the Federal Register on April 5, 2002, EPA revised some of the rule's monitoring requirements but inadvertently did not similarly revise the table in the rule which summarizes the monitoring requirements. Today's amendments correct Table 1 of the monitoring requirements section of the rule to include the continuous monitoring system options for raw mills and finish mills.

- In response to comments, we are also clarifying our explanatory language in the preamble to the April 5, 2002, amendments. These clarifications will make the rule easier to understand and implement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download the amendments from EPA's page on the World Wide Web, go to *http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg*. For additional information, contact Joseph Wood of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5446 or by e-mail at *wood.joe@epa.gov*.

- The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The address is: *http://www.epa.gov/oar/*.